

Beer Parish News

March 2026

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

- Charles Dickens

St Michael's... ..and Village

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St MICHAEL'S CHURCH

[St Michael's Church, Beer](https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelChurchBeer)

www.coastalchurch.org.uk

Calendar for MARCH 2026

- Sun 1st March** 8:00am Holy Communion *2nd Sunday of Lent*
9:30am Morning Praise
- Mon 2nd** 11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THORNFIELD
- Tues 3rd** 3:15pm C.A.B. meeting
- Wed 4th** 8:30am Open the Book at Beer School
10:00am Reflective Prayer
11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at CHECK HOUSE
- Thurs 5th** 12 noon Lent Lunch at Congregational Church Hall
2:00pm Lent Course at Endsleigh, Barline
- Fri 6th** 10:00am Mickey's Music Makers
10:30am World Day of Prayer at St Augustine's Seaton.
A service prepared by Christian Women from Nigeria ~ ALL welcome
- Sun 8th** 9:30am Holy Communion *3rd Sunday of Lent*
- Tues 10th** 2:00pm~4:00pm Memory Church at SEATON
- Wed 11th** **10:00am Holy Communion at BEER**
12:30pm Worship Team Meeting
1:00pm PCC Meeting
- Thurs 12th** 2:00pm Lent Course at Endsleigh, Barline
- Fri 13th** 10:00am Mickey's Music Makers
- Sat 14th** 10am ~ 11am Visiting Bell Ringers
2:00pm Posy Making (Location TBC)
- Sun 15th** **10:00am Joint Family Service with distribution of posies
at Congregational Church.** *Mothering Sunday*
- Mon 16th** 10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at NETHERHAYES
- Tues 17th** 10:00am Altar Guild meeting
10:45am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at LYME BAY VIEW
- Wed 18th** 8:30am Open the Book at Beer School
2:00pm Anna's Place
Reflective Cafe style worship with Communion & refreshments
- Thurs 19th** 2:00pm Lent Course at Endsleigh, Barline
- Fri 20th** 10:00am Mickey's Music Makers
- Sun 22nd** **9:30am Family Communion** *5th Sunday of Lent*
- Mon 23rd** 11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THE MANOR
- Tues 24th** 11:00am Anna Chaplaincy Activity & Worship at THE SEATON
5:00pm Choir Practice

CONTINUES ON PAGE 12...

*Sunday services in Beer are often on Facebook. If you can't come to church,
you can watch and hear them there, either live or later at a time convenient to you!*

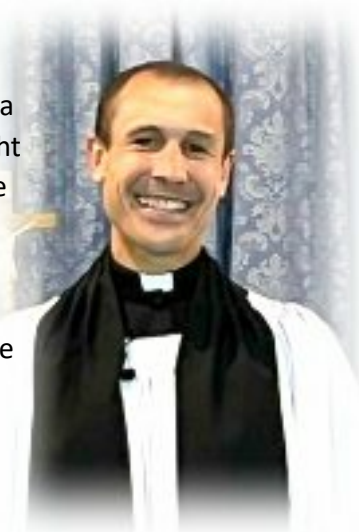
From Justin Rev's Ramblings

There is something satisfying when you've just had a good clean-up, a little sparkle around the taps, bright white porcelain, the carpets hoovered and furniture rearranged. But as anyone who has dogs, cats or other untidy individuals will know, turn your back and a cloud of fur will have landed, liquid spilled or something from on high mysteriously fallen onto the floor. Give it another hour and everything looks like it did before all your efforts. However, studies have shown that cleaning can be therapeutic and a new generation of 'clean-fluencers' have evolved on social media offering 'revolutionary cleaning hacks', which I've no doubt my late Grandma knew already.

It's March, spring will soon be sprung. I'm not sure whether the traditional *spring clean* has quietly gone out of fashion. Once upon a time, it seemed to be a given: windows flung open, cupboards emptied, cobwebs dusted, net curtains stripped, whitened and re-hung, and taking some time to declutter. These days rather than a spring clean, perhaps some of us rely on a combination of good intentions throughout the year, maybe some strategic lighting and and the hope that no one looks too closely?

If you've ever watched *Four in a Bed* on Channel 4, there's something quite curious about watching grown adults tour one another's B&B or hotel rooms armed with magnifying glasses, sticky tape and on particular moments even surgical gloves. A speck of dust becomes a matter of grave moral concern. A stray hair is treated like forensic evidence. Hospitality is judged, not by warmth or welcome, but by what lurks behind (or in) the kettle. Now I would not recommend this approach when it comes to spring cleaning at a home with three cats like ours. Some things are better left unseen.

This all triggers old memories for me. I still remember locker inspections in the Royal Marine recruit training, everything folded with precision, boots polished, kit laid out just so. And then chaos, your oppo (mate) has been found with a



button undone on his shirt. Next thing, your carefully arranged belongings are scattered across the floor. Inspection complete. Start again.

We are a few weeks into Lent, so how does the idea of a 'spiritual spring clean' sound to you? First, at its heart, Lent is not about God catching us out, a divine version of *Four in a Bed*, nor a spiritual locker inspection. It's an invitation for us to notice, reflect, examine what has built up over time and to clear some space and to make room for God.

Over time, our lives of faith can become cluttered. Not necessarily with bad things, but habits, worries, distractions, and tired routines that can dull our attentiveness to God. Lent and Easter remind us that God is always about renewal. As St Paul writes, "*If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation*" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NRSV).

A spiritual spring clean begins by opening the windows of our hearts and making space for God through prayer, silence and honest reflection. It can involve us gently asking: *What in my life is helping me love God and others more? What might be getting in the way of those relationships?* Like Jesus' image of pruning a vine (John 15), the aim is growth, cutting back what drains life so that fruit can flourish.

It may mean us letting go of grudges we've carried too long, habits that no longer serve us or 'busyness' that crowds out our rest. It may also mean rediscovering practices and rhythms that bring us back to God, such as reading Scripture, silence, prayer, worship, solitude as well as community and journaling.

A spiritual spring clean however isn't a one-off overhaul, neither does it need to be dramatic. It's a gentle invitation from God for us to begin again, to clear space for His grace and to notice the new life God is already growing within us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

So, if the thought of a physical spring clean fills you with enthusiasm - go for it, or if it fills you with a little dread, you're in very good company. Lent, however, is not about us emptying every cupboard or fixing every fault. But it is about us being honest with ourselves and opening the window of our hearts and lives to God, releasing some clutter and allowing some space for Him to come in.

Grace and peace.

Revd Justin

Beer Regatta 2025 Chairperson Report

The sun gods were certainly on our side for Beer Regatta 2025. Fine weather throughout the week ensured that all events went ahead as planned and helped deliver strong attendance, making each activity enjoyable and well supported. However, good weather alone does not make a successful Regatta. That success is owed to the extensive forward planning and many hours of preparation generously given by our dedicated Regatta Committee, along with additional supporters including Nigel Groves, Fiona Gage, Alan Back, Trott's Corner, BPC; Simon Reeves and Kevin Hale.

Our gratitude also extends to the venues that provided much-needed spaces throughout the week: Beer Albion Football Club, the Mariners' Hall, the Congregational Church and Beer Sailing Club. Additionally, our sponsors, Lyme Bay Holidays, The Dolphin and Pecorama as well as to the many local businesses and organisations who advertised in the Programme and generously donated prizes for the Grand Draw.

In 2025, the decision was taken not to introduce any new activities to balance planning and allow us to review the overall programme for the week. St John Ambulance attended two events to provide an additional safety measure, and their services were utilised. There may be a strong case for extending first-aid cover to include the Tug of War, in addition to Barrel Rolling and Sunday Funday in 2026. The Beach Hut and Café Competition did not take place this year, and the Committee will need to discuss its future.

We have enjoyed collaborating with our local emergency services teams in 2024 and 2025 but feel that this event does not need to take place annually, to raise awareness of the wonderful work they do. Our Coastguard teams will still provide a water demonstration, provided they are not dealing with a call for help. We thank them and Terry for all their support, not only for Regatta but in helping to keep Beer visitors and residents safe all year round.

The cost of running Regatta increased by approximately 20% last year which means we need to hold more in our reserves for Regatta 2026. We have sufficient funds to cover the cost of 2026 Regatta. In the past, previous committees have held enough money in the account to cover 2 years' worth of Regatta expenses, so we need to

take careful next steps just in case we have, for example, poor weather in 2026. Whilst it is unlikely that the costs will increase by a further 20% in 2026, we should aim to leave a minimum of £20000 in the account. The Finance Sub-Committee will meet within a month of this meeting to recommend changes to our current Constitution and any ability to Give Back to the community.



While Regatta 2025 was beyond doubt a great success, committee numbers need a boost. Some of the committee have been taking responsibility for at least one event and/ or committing significant additional time during the week itself, to ensure events run smoothly. Although we are incredibly fortunate to have such committed volunteers, this level of contribution is not sustainable in the long term. Without additional support for Regatta 2026, we may need to consider reducing the number of events we offer or shortening the overall duration of the Regatta to make it manageable.

Finally, we wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family of Tony Squire, Honorary Life President of Regatta, following his passing last month. Tony dedicated an enormous amount of time and effort to the success of Regatta, and we acknowledge his lasting contribution and support. Our thanks also extend to our Life President Nigel Harding and Honorary Life Presidents John Lang, Gayle Chapple and Lynne Bees, for their continued commitment to Regatta.

**If you are willing to help us organise and/or run an event,
please contact us via our FB page
or by emailing janette.hamnett@tiscali.co.uk**

The first couple of months of 2026 will be remembered for the relentlessness of the wet weather. It reminded me of a song which was one of my favourites when I was a

teenager – “A Song of the Weather” by Flanders and Swann. I was reminded of it at a recent event hosted by Beer Art Groups (BAGs) when Humphrey Sitter included it in one of his sets.

So far we have had very little “winter”, with few frosts and no snow. As a result, plants seem to be further advanced than usual. The hellebores are well out and the daffodils are flowering in gardens and along the verges. Take time to admire the displays in and around Sidmouth which are a wonderful legacy from Keith Owen. We have a few anemones in flower and the freesias are in bud – far too early! Various fruit trees around the area are giving a wonderful show of colour. As usual, we admire the camellias in Seaton and Sidmouth. The plants dislike Beer’s chalky soil although they usually do well in pots.

We eventually dashed out between showers and sowed some broad bean seeds recently. Our original plan had been to put them in during December, but that didn’t happen. Hopefully the mice won’t eat them! The autumn-planted onion sets are shooting nicely, so, with any luck, they will produce something useful.

While the Fine Foundation Centre is closed, we are refreshing some of the displays. Ironically, a meeting to discuss a new proposition had to be postponed because of recent floods! We plan to open the centre on Good Friday – 3rd April – as usual. If the weather is fine we may have an impromptu Rock Pool Safari on the same day as we open, given that the tides will be appropriate.

The first Beach Cleaning Championships took place at Charmouth in pouring rain with 70 people taking part over 3 hours. The results relied on the weight of the rubbish collected. I’m not sure how that would work in Beer as most of the hard work done in our beach cleaning is in finding the very small pieces of plastic and debris lodged between the pebbles, which results in a lot of work for small amounts of rubbish.

We are hoping that the rain will take a break on Sunday 8th March for the Grizzly when some of our members will be busy helping to raise money to

support our various activities by, along with the RNLI, manning the water station in Beer Head Caravan Park. Come and say “hello” as you run by!

January’s Branscombe Project talk was a follow-up to last January’s talk on Vindolanda, giving us an update on how the team is working to retrieve articles from the boggy land which is drying out as a result of climate change. March’s talk, on Monday 23rd March at 1930, in the Branoc Hall sees one of the group’s famous Docu-Dramas with Barbara Farquarson launching her new book “The Burnt House at Weston”. The group plans to hold an exhibition to celebrate 30 years of the Branscombe Project. This has been postponed until the autumn.

Beer Village Heritage is a registered charity, and we rely on annual subscriptions and donations in order to run the Fine Foundation Centre and the Bomb Shelter.

You’ll find the Beer Village Heritage walks and I-Spy online via our website: <http://www.beervillageheritage.org.uk>. We apologise that some of the links on the site are not working.

If you would like to be involved with running the Fine Foundation Centre and our other activities, please talk to our Chairman, David Morling on 01297 625045. We would particularly love to hear from someone who would be prepared to help with the website.



The following poem “did the rounds” several years ago when it rained relentlessly for weeks. It seems appropriate now. As far as we know, the author is unknown.

Weather or not

It rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simply bogs
It started raining cats and dogs.
After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower.

And then, most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall.
Next day but one was fairly dry
Save for one deluge from the sky
Which wetted the party to the skin
And then, at last, the rain set in.



ANNA CHAPLAINCY MARCH and early APRIL worship and events –



If you have a loved one or friend you visit in one of the Seaton care homes, please consider joining us for our monthly worship. You would be most welcome. Kindly check with the care home prior to your visit in case anything changes at the last minute.

Monday 2 March THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

Wednesday 4 March – CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 10 March– MEMORY CHURCH 2-4 p.m. Church centre St Gregory’s SEATON – For older people who find it difficult to worship in our church buildings. Worship, afternoon tea and making new friends. Interested? Phone 01297 23656

Monday 16 March – NETHERHAYES 10.45 a.m.

Tuesday 17 March - LYME BAY VIEW 10.45 a.m

ANNA’S PLACE at St Michael’s Church BEER. Please join us on Wednesday 18 March 2.00 p.m. Reflective café style worship with Holy Communion followed by refreshments, everyone welcome. A space for carers and those cared for at home.

Monday 23 March – THE MANOR 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 24 March – THE SEATON 11.00 a.m.

APRIL

Wednesday 1 April CHECK HOUSE 11.00 a.m.

Tuesday 7 April THORNFIELD 11.00 a.m.

If you know someone living at home or a resident who would like a one-to-one visit in a care home, please contact either Mary or Sue on their mobile numbers. You will find Information leaflets about Anna Chaplaincy ministry displayed at St Gregory’s and St Michael’s churches. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Anna Chaplain Mary - 07805655335 Anna Chaplain Sue – 07802649155

The church office - CONTACT 01297 23656

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Meeting held 17th February in St Michael's Church.

Events coming up Mothering Sunday 15th March, joint service held in the Congregational church everyone welcome.

Soup for the Soul – Monday 30th March to Thursday 2nd April at 12 midday– Homemade soup and bread rolls followed by tea /coffee and hot cross buns, safe place to share food, reflections and share time with others. Please come and join us

Please watch out for posters, Face Book, Beer information posts for any up and coming St Michael's Church plans & events.

Please come and join us, your support is always very much appreciated

**Date of next meeting 17th March 2026 @ 10am
AGM followed by ordinary meeting**

...CONTINUED from page 3

...St Michael's Calendar March into Easter

Wed 25th	10:00am Holy Communion at SEATON	
Fri 27th	10:00am Mickey's Music Makers	
Sat 28th	10am~12noon Beer Community SOS Choir (<i>Seriously Occasional Singers</i>)	
Sun 29th	9:30am Family Communion	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
Mon 30th	12noon "Soup for the Soul"	}
Tues 31st	12noon "Soup for the Soul"	
Wed 1st Apr	12noon "Soup for the Soul"	}
	2:30pm Beer School Easter Service	
		<i>Holy Week</i>
Thurs 2nd	12 noon "Soup for the Soul" with communion at 1:30pm	}
Good Friday	12 noon "Walk of Witness" in beginning at Tesco Plaza	
	2:00pm "An hour at the Cross" at St Gregory's SEATON	}
Easter Day	7:30am "Son-Rise" Service on Top Cliff <i>followed by breakfast at Congregational</i>	
	9:30am Easter Communion Service	

Joining Generations for Candlemas Crafts!

A wonderful morning was spent together at the Coastal Mission Community (Seaton and Beer), enjoying some candle-themed creativity!

With an age range from under a year to over eighty, we had fun together making paper lanterns and cards, along with candles constructed out of playdough and chocolate mini rolls! (not mixed-media!)



Inspired by the story of Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Simeon and Anna all worshipping God together at the temple, and fuelled by tea and biscuits a good time was had by all.



As one young teenager said "I love that there are grown-ups who like making things – not just children!".

The session is one of several planned as part of our 'Joining Generations' Initiative, for which we are currently fundraising to employ a part-time leader in the near future.



For further information about the **Joining Generations project**, please contact Rev Shuna George, Local Pioneer Minister, via the church office: seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk

Beer Film Society

BEER Film Society's next movie *I Swear* (2025, 2hrs 01min, 15) will land at the Mariners' Hall on **Thursday 19th** fresh from winning three Bafta film awards at a glittering ceremony in London last month (Sunday February 22nd).

Robert Aramayo's brilliant portrayal of John Davidson, who has Tourette's Syndrome, earned him the award as Best Leading Actor beating Hollywood A-Listers Leonardo DiCaprio and Timothee Chalamet.

Aramayo also became the first person to win that award in the same year alongside the EE Rising Star category for up-and-coming actors to mark him out as a future star. The film also won a third Bafta for its overall casting.

The film is remarkable as it tackles Davidson's true-story and lifelong campaign for better understanding and tolerance of people with Tourette's Syndrome.

Davidson's campaign eventually led to him getting an MBE from the Queen in 2019 and has now been recognised in the film.

Yes, the film contains very strong language, but only used in the context of Davidson's neurological condition which is why the British Board of Film Classification awarded it a 15 certificate.

So, please come along and take a look at a film which received an unprecedented 100 per cent approval from the critics and 99 per cent from the public on the popular movie website *Rotten Tomatoes*. It really is that good - and that is not just the BFS view.

'It is a drama with three-dimensional people, facing three-dimensional problems and dealing with them - I absolutely loved it,' said top media critic Mark Kermode.

Doors open at 6.30pm with the film starting at 7pm. Card payment preferred please. The bar will be open and Baboo Gelato ice creams will be available.

Beer Film Society

I BLINK
I TWITCH
I JUMP
I CLICK
I WHISTLE
I SHOUT

I SWEAR

Thursday March 19th
Mariners' Hall 15

Card payment preferred

Bring your own cushions!

Doors open 6.30pm start time - 7.00 pm
Members £5.00 non members £7.00
numbers limited - to book tickets email beerfilmsociety@gmail.com

On February 4th we had a talk and demonstration from Sue and Richard Kerwood about Willow Weaving. This was very well presented and the talk was lovely and often funny.

The examples that they brought with them were varied and very well made; the work being beautiful and very, very strong.

Members were able to purchase the baskets for gifts or for themselves and the example used in the demo was put in a raffle at the end of the talk.

The basket in the picture was originally used for catching salmon in our estuaries. Several of these conical baskets would be lashed together in the estuary at low tide. The salmon would swim up the river into the baskets at high tide and be trapped whilst smaller fish could escape through the holes. They would then be retrieved at low tide.



If anyone would like to get their knitting needles out, the RD&E need blankets and hats for premature babies. Blankets to be 14" x 12". They are in need because they don't survive a boil wash. Please contact us if you are interested.

We are looking for members willing to host a coffee morning. The proceeds go to charity.

Dates for your diary:

The WI birthday lunch is on March 10th venue to be at The Barrel.

Bookclub - Monday March 2nd at Pamela's 2pm

Creative writing - March 9th at Isabella's 2pm

The next meeting is on March 4th the AGM and Bring Your own games evening 7.30 pm

Enquiries contact Chris Paul 07710520055

Mickey's & Greg's Music Makers



Thursdays (Term-time)

10-11am

St Gregory's Church Centre,

Seaton EX12 2DF

Fridays (Term-time)

10-11am

St Michael's Church, Beer

EX12 3JB

Bring your little one for songs, stories, snacks & more and meet other parents/carers. The sessions are FREE but donations welcome to fund our families work

For babies,
toddlers
and their
carers



info from Church Office:

Tel. 01297 23656

Email: seatonchurch@hotmail.co.uk

or Rev Shunaa at shuna.art@gmail.com

07971 759997



We were relieved that the weather was fine for people coming to our RNLI SOS Table Top Sale on Saturday 31st January at the Mariners Hall, Beer. Stall holders came from Wimble, Axminster, Musbury, Seaton and Beer and sold a variety of

items. We thank Colyford Butchers and Paul's Bakery in Seaton for their support towards our purchase of the bacon and baps. Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake was available and we had our raffle, card tombola, RNLI gifts and souvenirs and RNLI information. We are very pleased to say that £291.50 was raised for the work of the RNLI plus £79.50 from sales at our souvenir and gift stall. We thank everyone who came and supported us during the morning of our first event of 2026..



**Terry Sharp - Axe Yacht Club, Social
Wendy Cummins, and
Nigel Daniel - Axe Yacht Club**

During the evening of the 31st January I attended the Axe Yacht Club Presentation Evening and presented a Certificate of Thanks for a donation of £500 from their events in 2025. An additional donation was also made to Lyme Regis Lifeboat Station at the Axe Yacht Club Annual General Meeting the previous week.

On Monday 16th February the Seaton Carnival Committee at their Annual General Meeting presented our branch of the RNLI a certificate to record a donation of £100. We always enjoy attending their events with our stall and entering the Seaton Carnival Procession and we look forward to attending them as the year progresses.

Since writing my report for the February issue there were two changes to our schedule and they are:

Tuesday 24th February. We amended the date of our Review Coffee Morning from the anticipated 10th March and at the time of writing my report we were looking forward to reviewing 2025 and looking forward

through 2026. My report of our morning at the Congregational Hall will be in the April Beer Parish News.

Wednesday 25th March our Coffee Morning at Beer Sailing Club from 10am to noon in conjunction with the Fisherman's Mission is postponed from Wednesday 4th March.

Sunday 8th March. We will be at the Grizzly Race Day Drink Station at Beer Head Caravan Park with Beer Village Heritage. We will be setting up from 9.30am and will be there until approximately 4pm cheering and supporting the runners and providing refreshment if needed until the last one passes by. If any one would like to help it is a great day and volunteers can help for as short or as long time as they wish. Wear suitable clothing as the weather can be unpredictable and bring own refreshments through we usually have some bacon baps available and cakes.

Friday 13th March. We will be visiting Tesco Axminster for our Tesco Collection from 9.30am to 5.30pm.

Monday 30th March. Our RNLI Shop at Jubilee Gardens, Beer will be re-opening following our winter break. Additional volunteers are still needed and welcome on a relief duty and/or rota basis. If you can help please telephone our Shop Manager Richard Hare on 07752393640. Additional help is also required with fundraising collections, at our own events or at events we attend in our area. Please email wac500@hotmail.co.uk for details or see us at events.

Best wishes and thank you very much for all your support that is greatly appreciated by our branch of the RNLI and RNLI Headquarters.

Wendy Cummins
Secretary Fundraising/Events
Seaton Beer and District Branch
RNLI



From a Parish Councillor

I'm not sure I had ever been to Devon in my youth, although obviously I'd heard about clotted cream and all that, until my parents decided to move from Lincolnshire just outside of a lovely town called Stamford in the late 90s.

Once they moved down here the obligatory summer holiday and Christmas meetings were arranged on a regular basis and the joys of the A303 appeared in my life with 2 young kids in the back for extra pleasure!

I always remember those clear sunny days sat on the beach with the kids doing whatever you do on the beach. Unfortunately, all good things come to an end and when my parents passed, my sister and I decided to sell the flat my parents had lived in for some 20 years.

The market seemed to be a bit slow and after nearly a year the flat hadn't sold so I decided to buy my sister out of her half of the property and keep the flat as a summer home ideal for holidays and nearing retirement who knows what else.

When I say flat its more of a Penthouse being on the top floor and extending the whole width of the building. Being at the top of Berry Hill the views over the village are fantastic and always a pleasure to wake up to.

It seemed pointless just to use the flat on an ad hoc basis so I determined to use it for a week every month and during that time if the weather was bad, I could carry out all those little odds and end jobs you do on any property.

Time and tide wait for no man and eventually I decided to move down to Beer full-time as a new start in life having pretty much retired from various activities in London (Muswell Hill) including property development, motorcycle sales, and a vintage watch business. Life however always has a few surprises, and I have to say that retirement didn't really agree with me so when I saw the request for Parish Councillors on Facebook, I thought that would be pretty much down my line of work.

I've now been in Beer for some two years on a full-time basis and I have to say this very much agrees with me. There's always been a pleasure to meet people you know in the street and of course in a place like Beer that's pretty much everybody you meet walking down the High Street although even strangers seem keen to say hello and give you a nice smile.

Being a Beer parish councillor is not particularly complicated matter requiring one meeting each month in the evening with the usual discussions however it's surprising how interesting some of these discussions can become. One issue (which is one of the more interesting aspects) I've been involved with is the proximity of Common Lane to the cliff which will have been discussed in a public consultation by the time you are reading this, but essentially as we are now living next to the sea cliff erosion is an issue that needs to be managed all of the time and thought about in detail.

It is surprising however, how many other matters the council must deal with including disabled parking spaces, planning applications, school fences, accounts, tabletop sales, flooding (to name a few) and I'm now looking at the age-old issue of potholes and blocked drains. It seems that a lot of matters we handle do have to be sanctioned or actioned by East Devon District Council so they have to be pursued on a regular basis and sometimes it does seem that the loudest voices get the most attention (on occasion) so if it seems matters take a while to resolve its normally due to council procedures and funding which as ever is limited.

Whilst I have only been in Beer permanently for a couple of years, I do go back to London each month so I do get to make a clear comparison and whilst London has many advantages (including a great public transport system), it's certainly not the place for me! The advantages of beautiful Beer are far greater, especially the friendliness of everyone.

Cllr Simon Whitelock

C
A
B



CHAPEL ASSOCIATION BEER

Situated by the sea on the Jurassic Coast
in the Old Cemetery, Clapps Lane, Beer, LA9 3HE

~ *By, with, and for the Community*

Chapel Update – March 2026

The recently formed *Chapel Association Beer* (CAB) continues to gather energy and ideas as we work to bring our much-loved 19th century village chapel back to life.

First, a small correction from last month's article. It was reported that CAB was setting up a *Community Interest Organisation (CIO)* — this should, in fact, have read a *Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)*. Entirely the author's error! Despite the recent storms and heavy rain, we are pleased to report the chapel remains water-tight with no signs of any water ingress after the roof work that had taken place at the end of 2025.

At our most recent meeting which began in the chapel itself, we explored practical in detail our next steps. Among those matters discussed were:

- A general clean and tidy throughout, with appropriate treatment for the pews and floor to restore their natural beauty.
- The possibility of adapting 4-6 pews into pop-up beds to enable "Champing" (church camping).
- Installing electric wall heaters to make the space usable year-round.
- Creating a small kitchen/dining area within the building (initially suggested at the east end).
- Retaining the pews, altar and Priest's chair, all part of the building's unique beauty and atmosphere.
- Embracing the historic interior in a way that may help attract grant funding.

Champing remains the favoured primary use. However, by carefully preserving the chapel's internal furnishings, it could also become a truly unique venue for intimate weddings, talks, candlelit gatherings and other small-scale events, offering a unique historic venue for our village. Importantly, it would complement, not compete with, existing village premises. A sensitive, well-managed approach could also provide a much-needed self-sustaining income stream to secure the chapel's future.

Since that meeting, a small group met with a local architect, who has extensive experience advising on church renovation projects. Excellent creative advice was given that will enable CAB to balance a respect for the space and heritage, whilst exploring its strengths for a sustainable future.

On the same day, individuals from CAB met with an arborist to seek advice on the care of the 15 yew trees surrounding the chapel. These are a most beautiful asset to area. The aim is to manage them sensitively, reducing their size where appropriate (a little haircut) to allow glimpses of the chapel to be seen once again, while preserving their character and ecological value, and enabling them to flourish.

We are now actively exploring the practicalities of connecting electricity, installing compostable toilets and providing a water supply essential steps if the building is to serve the community sustainably.

The vision is steadily taking shape and we look forward to sharing further progress each month. Watch this space for an open-day event in the summer. If you would like to be involved, offer your skills or simply know more, please do get in touch. This is a village project and everyone is welcome.

Best wishes.

CAB.





BEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - SERVICES & NOTICES

**March 1st – 10am Morning Service
with Holy Communion**

March 8th – 10am Morning Service

**March 15th – 10am United Mothering
Sunday Service with St Michael's at
the Congregational Chapel**

March 22nd – 10am Morning Service

March 29th – 10am Palm Sunday Service

**April 2nd – 7pm Maundy Thursday Service with Holy
Communion**

**April 3rd – 10am Good Friday Service followed by Hot Cross
Buns**

**April 5th – 7-30am – United Sunrise Service at the Jubilee
followed by breakfast in the Congregational Hall**

10am Easter Service with Holy Communion

COFFEE MORNINGS IN THE HALL – 10-30am – 12 noon

March 5th, 19th and April 2nd

**LENT BIBLE STUDIES ON PHILIPPIANS led by Revd
Nigel Freathy – Congregational Church Hall – 2-30pm – 4pm
– March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th**

**LENT CHARITY LUNCH – March 5th – 12 noon – 1pm –
Beer Congregational Church Hall**

- You don't know the day when it will happen that you draw your last breath. It has yet to arrive. But you do know the time. It will be now.
- Guess what the time was when everything in your life happened to you? Yes, you guessed it, it was now. Everything happens in Now. The only reality.
- At any point in your life when you stop and think about it, it's Here and it's Now. The eternal moment in which all life happens.
- At any moment, whatever is happening around you in the external world, you can bring your attention into being Here and Now. It is space – space in which to be in touch with the essence of who you are.
- What a wonderful and precious realisation: to know that the only moment there ever is is always available to you. It is as precious as life itself, as precious as the essence of who and what you are.
- The world throws many distractions your way. And who wants to spend time in the spacious emptiness of the present moment? So you go headlong into tv, computer screen, radio, mobile phone, future attractions. Stuff-to-come. The contents of your life. After all, you have time to do that.
- And guess what... there's never any need to wonder what the time is. It's always yes, you guessed it.

YOUR LOCAL CONTACTS

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Email: Richard.Foord.MP@parliament.uk

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